IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4-7 and 9-20 without prejudice.

Please rewrite claim 21 to recite the following:

Claim 21. (Amended) An oral composition comprising a pharmaceutical active in a hydrophilic, water-miscible, anhydrous solvent wherein the pharmaceutical active in its un-ionized form has a percent solubility value in the solvent at ambient temperature that is equal to or greater than 0.075% and the pharmaceutical active is in its free, un-ionized form as a monomolecular dispersion in the solvent, and a reducing agent wherein the reducing agent has an E^0 value equal to or greater than about -0.119V and is solubilized in a phase of the composition other than the phase of the composition in which the pharmaceutical active is solubilized.

Please add the following new Claims 22-36:

--Claim 22. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the reducing agent has an E^0 value from about -0.119V to about +0.250V.--

--Claim 23. The composition according to claim 22 wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of metabisulfite salts, bisulfite salts, dithiothreitol, thiourea, sodium thiosulphate, thioglycolic acid, tert-butyl hydroquinone (TBHQ), acetyl cysteine, hydroquinone, and mixtures thereof.--

--Claim 24. The composition according to claim 23 wherein the reducing agent comprises from about 0.005% to about 1.000% by weight of the composition.--

--Claim 25. The composition according to claim 24 wherein the reducing agent comprises from about 0.1000% to about 0.01% by weight of the composition.--

--Claim 26. The composition according to claim 21 wherein the pharmaceutical active has a molecular weight of less than 500 grams per mole, is capable of being ionized when the composition comprises an aqueous solvent, and in its un-ionized form has an octanol-water partition coefficient of at least 100.--

--Claim 27. The composition according to claim 26 wherein the pharmaceutical active is selected from the group consisting of antitussives, antihistamines, non-sedating antihistamines, decongestants, expectorants, analgesic mucolytics, antipyretic anti-inflammatory agents, local anesthetics, and mixtures thereof.--

--Claim 28. The composition according to claim 27 wherein the pharmaceutical active is in the solvent at a concentration of less than or equal to 125% of the percent solubility value of said active.--

--Claim 29. The composition according to claim 28 wherein the pharmaceutical active is present in the solvent at a level from about 0.075% to about 25.0% by weight of the composition.--

--Claim 30. The composition according to claim 29 wherein the pharmaceutical active is present in the solvent at a level from about 0.28% to about 10.0% by weight of the composition--.

--Claim 31. The composition according to claim 30 wherein the solvent comprises from about 60% to about 99.975% by weight of the composition.--

--Claim 32. The composition according to claim 31 wherein the solvent comprises from about 70% to about 99% by weight of the composition.--

--Claim 33. The composition according to claim 32 wherein the solvent comprises from about 85% to about 98% by weight of the composition.--

--Claim 34. The composition according to claim 31 wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, ethanol, poly(ethylene glycol) or PEG, propylene carbonate, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, poloxamer, glycofurol, glycerol, and mixtures thereof.--

--Claim 35. A method for treating respiratory illnesses using the composition of claim 21 wherein the method comprises oral administration of said composition having a total dosage volume of no more than 3.0 mls.--

--Claim 36. The method according to claim 35 wherein the composition is placed against any mucosal membrane of the mouth.--